

84th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Sept. 17, 1970)

Justice Prevails in Lusaka

(Nhan Dan editorial of Sept. 16, 1970)

A great success of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America fighting for national independence, peace and the building of a happy and prosperous life was scored at the non-aligned countries' summit held in Lusaka (Republic of Zambia) from Sept. 8 to 19, 1970.

The Conference adopted, by majority vote, documents and resolutions against imperialism and old and new colonialism, for peace, national independence and economic co-operation between non-aligned countries. It condemned racial discrimination in South Africa and championed the legitimate national rights of the South African peoples. It declared for the struggle of the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea and Cape Verde against the Portuguese colonialists propped up by South African troops.

The Conference approved the embargo on Portugal, the South African Republic and Rhodesia, the breaking of diplomatic relations with them, and demanded that the US, British and West German imperialists and other NATO countries as well as Japan suspend all co-operation with the colonialist and racist regime in South Africa. Regarding the Middle-East, the Conference passed a resolution urging immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab territories under their control.

It unanimously supported the restitution of her (PVO) east to the People's Republic of China.

Insofar as Viet Nam and Indochina are concerned, it strongly denounced US aggression there and press-

ed for the withdrawal of US troops from there, and the right of the Indochinese peoples to self-determination.

In nearly past ten years since the first conference of non-aligned countries held in Belgrade in June 1961, the situation in the world and chiefly in the Third World has undergone dramatic changes. A powerful movement for national liberation was underway while US-led colonialism and imperialism left no stone unturned to strike at the oppressed peoples and to revert to neo-colonialism to save old colonialism, impede the national liberation movement and hamstring the newly-independent countries. Nevertheless, for all their weapons and money, the imperialists and colonialists were unable to check the advance of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples who, backed by progressive mankind and especially assisted by socialist countries, inflicted a series of heavy setbacks on the old and new colonialists.

The non-alignment movement, a manifestation of the aspirations of millions of peoples of the Third World to independence, freedom and peace in the context of a period of strategic offensive by revolutionary forces, carries in itself the tendency to break from the imperialist control.

In face of the failure of neo-colonialism whose period has now become more and more apparent and of the new relation of forces tilting definitely in favor of the revolutionary forces, it has assumed

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RSVN PRG NEW PEACE INITIATIVE

At the 84th session of the Paris Conference, *Mao Nguyen Thi Binh*, head of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, delivered an important speech the essential part of which is reproduced below:

To respond to the deep desire for peace of broad sectors of the people in South Viet Nam in the United States and in the world, on the instructions of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, I would like to elaborate on a number of points in the 10-point overall solution as follows:

1. The US Government must put an end to its war of aggression in Viet Nam, stop the policy of "Vietnamization" of the war, totally withdraw from South Viet Nam troops, military personnel, weapons, and war materials of the United States as well as troops, military personnel, weapons, and war materials of the other foreign countries in the US camp, without posing any condition whatsoever, and dismantle all US military bases in South Viet Nam.

In case the US Government declares it will withdraw from South Viet Nam all its troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp by June 30, 1971, the People's Liberation Armed Forces will refrain from attacking the withdrawing troops of the United States and those of the other foreign countries

in the US camp, and the parties will engage at once in discussions on:

— the question of ensuring safety for the total withdrawal from South Viet Nam of US troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp.

— the question of releasing captured militarymen.

2. The question of Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam shall be resolved by the Vietnamese parties among themselves.

3. The warlike and fascist Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration, an instrument of the US policy of aggression, are frantically opposing peace, striving to call for the intensification and expansion of the war, and for the prolongation of the US military occupation of South Viet Nam, and are enriching themselves with the blood of the people. They are serving the US imperialist aggressors who massacre their compatriots and devastate their country. They have stepped up the "pacification" campaigns to terrorize the people and hold them in the vice of their regime, set up a barbarous system of jails of the type of "tiger cages" in Con Dao and established a police regime of the utmost cruelty in South Viet Nam. They carry out ferocious repression against those who stand for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy, regardless of their social stock, political tendency and religion. They repress even those who are not of their

clan. They increase forcible proscription and endeavor to plunder the property of the South Viet Nam people so as to serve the US policy of "Vietnamization" of the war. The restoration of genuine peace in South Viet Nam necessitates the formation in Saigon of an administration without Thieu, Ky, and Khiem, an administration which stands for peace, independence, neutrality, which improves the people's living conditions, which ensures democratic liberties such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of belief, etc., and releases those who have been jailed for political reasons, and dissolves concentration camps so that the inmates therein may return to and live in their native places. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is prepared to enter into talks with such an administration on a political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem so as to put an end to the war and restore peace in Viet Nam.

4. The South Viet Nam people will decide themselves the political regime of South Viet Nam through really free and democratic general elections, elect a national assembly, work out a constitution of a national and democratic character, and set up a government reflecting the entire people's aspirations and will for peace, independence, neutrality, democracy, and national concord.

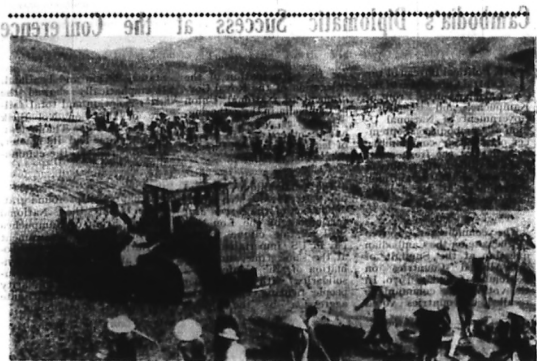
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The DRVN 74 25 Years Old

RENOVATION OF AGRICULTURE

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At the construction site of Khuon Than reservoir in Ha Bac province.



JUSTICE PREVAILS IN LUSAKA

(Continued from page 1)

"an increasingly anti-imperialist character. This was clearly visible at the Lusaka Conference.

It was without saying that the US and its allies have been fighting hard to defend their vested interests in all fields. One remembers that in his lifetime, Dr. Nkrumah was a vocal proponent of the neutralist countries were among the US. It is today the American policy to protect their respect for the neutralism and non-alignment of such and such countries, they in fact friendly go on with their sabotage. At the Lusaka Conference, well-known US placemen such as Schacht and Adam

Malik of Indonesia, Abdul Razak of Malaysia, tried under the "non-alignment" cover to make the Conference recognize such traitors as Lon Nol-Sieng Matak and Thien-Ky. But their scheme was exposed by many a delegation.

As Viet Nam and Indochina are in the front line of the struggle against US imperialism, the attitude towards the Indochinese People's anti-US struggle and US crimes against them is a touchstone for the revolutionary forces in the world. The resolutions of the Lusaka Conference condemning US aggression, the warm welcome extended to Minh Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the DRVN Provisional Revolutionary

Government delegation, the support given to the delegation of the Royal Government of Cambodia through the vote of the Conference, the role of non-aligned countries in its favour, these light on the anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist trend of the Lusaka Conference where leanings for independence, peace and genuine neutrality have definitely prevailed.

We are highly gratified with the results obtained by the non-aligned forces in Lusaka and sincerely thank those countries and various national liberation movements for their sympathy with our just cause.

RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government Foreign Minister Warmly Acclaimed

FOREIGN Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, arrived in Lusaka on September 7 in a chartered plane together with Tanzanian President J. Nyerere to attend the conference of non-aligned countries.

She was warmly welcomed by Simon M. Kappeewee, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia, and many other high officials.

Diplomatic envoys in Lusaka were also present at the airport.

The delegation of the PRG of the RSVN attended on September 10 the 3rd Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries with the efforts of the peoples of various countries for independence, democracy, peace

and social progress and for co-operation in building an independent and prosperous economy.

Observers in Lusaka considered the participation of Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh in the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries as "an historical event which changed the character of the Conference."

From Sept. 4 to 6, prior to the Lusaka Conference, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh paid a friendship visit to the United Republic of Tanzania. She was received by President Nyerere who declared that the friendship between Tanzania and Viet Nam would be strengthened day after day.

For the participation of the delegation of the Royal Government of National Union of Kampuchea in the gathering, 7 countries voted against and 12 others were in favour of leaving the seat of Cambodia vacant.

The communiqué pointed out that the vote was a condemnation of the coup d'état carried out by the Lon Nol-Sieng Matak clique in the pay of US imperialism, and at the same time, an affirmation of the Conference's solidarity with the Khmer people fighting against the aggression by the United

States, Saigon and Thailand. It emphatically showed the utter isolation and total failure of the Lon Nol-Sieng Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh traitorous clique and its master, US imperialism, the communist

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North Viet Nam

A U.S. DRONE DOWNED

A US unmanned aircraft was shot down in Vinh Phu province, northwest of Hanoi, on September 16 bringing the total of American planes grounded by our A.A. defence since August 5, 1964, the beginning of US war escalation, to 3,361.

ON September 16 a spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry vehemently condemned the US air attack on September 14 on many localities of Le Thuy, a district of Quang Binh province, scores of kilometres north of the demarcation line on the 17th parallel.

North Viet Nam in Brief

• Term began in the whole of North Viet Nam in the second week of September. In Hanoi the enrolment of the 1st and 2nd forms and infant classes ran to over 300,000.

• The children's traditional Mid-Autumn Festival this year fell on September 15. Different entertainments (film shows, performances of dances and songs, etc.) were organized in clubs, rooms and public places for them. In Hanoi, President Ton Duc Thang, who is also Honorary Chairman of the Committee of Children and Youths, paid a visit to the Children's Club in Hanoi where thousands of them were enjoying their "Vietnamese Christmas."

• The President of the DRVN has just conferred honorary distinctions on artistic ensembles and artists for bravery in the victorious resistance to US war of destruction. Among the recipients were the female choir of the Song and Dance Ensemble, a unit of film projection of Vinh Linh (area worst hit by American bombardments), documentary maker Ma Van Cuong (posthumously), and one-string guitar player Nguyen Thanh Chuong.

• A Tradition House for the exploits achieved during the years of struggle against the US air war of destruction has recently opened in Nam Dinh, capital of Nam Ha province. In Hoang Thao ward, where US planes caused heavy material and human losses, a House of Relics has been erected to brand this inhuman crime of the US. An underground restaurant and hair-dressing saloon as well as a canteen served as CP in the period of US bombardments of North Viet Nam have been restored.

• A Government Delegation led by Nguyen Con, Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and Deputy Prime Minister of the DRVN, arrived in Peking on September 12 to negotiate the 1971 military and economic aid with the People's Republic of China.

• A protocol on scientific and technical co-operation between the DRVN and the USSR was signed in Moscow on August 8.

• A cultural co-operation agreement for 1970-71 between the DRVN and the Socialist Republic of Rumania was signed in Bucharest on September 10.

• An agreement on cultural co-operation and aid programme was signed between the DRVN and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was signed in Prague on September 4.

• Nicolas Guillen, a well-known poet of Cuba and Latin America, President of the Cuban Artists' National Association, winner of Stalin Prize of Peace (1955), arrived in North Viet Nam on August 31 on a friendship visit.

• A table-tennis tournament for national championship wound up on September 13. Fifty competitors representing different cities and towns in North Viet Nam took part in the final round. Non champions appeared. The male championship was won by Hoang Thi Vinh (Central School of Sports) and the female title by Nguyen Thi Mai (Hanoi).

SEPT. 2, 1945 SEPT. 2, 1970

The D.R.V.N.
is 25
Years Old

NORTH VIET NAM'S
AGRICULTURE DEFINITELY
ON THE SOCIALIST PATH
The Beginnings of
a Socialist Agriculture

THE simple grouping of peasants into co-operatives will not settle all problems. For the co-operatives thus founded had no equipment of any modern type, and their members and cadres had not yet either any experience in agricultural production of such a scale, two fundamental questions arose right from the outset and are still pending:

— How to manage the co-ops?

How to renovate the farming techniques?

These questions are closely related since management must make possible technical renovation which, in its

— distribution of income, — democratic functioning within the co-operatives.

It was also necessary to define clearly the relationship between the co-operative economy and the family economy of each co-op member in such a way as to encourage the development of both. Furthermore, the diversification of agriculture from rice monoculture to embrace gradually other crops, fish-raising, hog and cattle raising, sideline occupations, broadening of the scope of the co-ops which today often consist each of several thousand people and several hundred hectares yielding at least two crops per year... also call for a more and more accurate and complex management.

At the State echelon it is important to work out rational policies of investment and of purchase of agricultural products, a judicious price policy and aid to the

conservancy projects of big, medium and small sizes are absolutely indispensable. To store water, drain the fields, irrigate the high lands, dry up the low paddies, prevent floods, combine irrigation works with expanding communications by water-ways and fish-rearing, all these tasks have received a vigorous impulse thanks to the mobilization of millions of peasants and mechanization.

Hydraulic work is given pride of place among projects of national scale. The harnessing of water has made possible gradual intensive cultivation and the diversification of crops. New techniques of cultivation and animal husbandry have been put to use by combining the age-old methods of the peasants and the results of scientific research. Engineers, technicians and scientific workers have been co-operating closely with co-op technical groups which have their own experimental plots. Gradually the following techniques have been widely applied in the countryside:

— rational irrigation capable of providing the quantity of water necessary for the various stages in the growth of the rice plants;

— a proper choice of the soil to alternate rice with other crops;

— enrichment of the soil: use of lime, green and organic manure or chemical fertilizers;

— selection of high-yield seeds;

— a tenacious fight against crop pests;

— gradual renovation of the farm implements and various transport means;

— semi-mechanization and mechanization;

— intensification of stock-breeding.

Much remains to be done to adequately adjust these techniques to the local conditions of each co-operative and to propagate them throughout the country.

Nourishing industry is able to furnish only a scanty quantity of machines, chemical fertilizers, insecticides and building materials. That is one of the biggest handicaps which cannot be overcome in a short period of time.

On the other hand, quickly expanded general and technical education has been playing the co-ops with increasing numbers of qualified and able cadres. It will be long before natural calamities are completely brought under control to ensure continual and steady

progress of agriculture. But even now it can already be affirmed that North Viet Nam's agriculture is in full renewal.

A Glimpse of
the Peasants' Condition

TO those who know the Viet Nam of the past, a thing stands out as they cover the length of the country at the present time: the hordes of beggars who assailed you at every railway or bus station have completely disappeared. Who were those beggars whose entreatments and wallings cast so gloomy a note on the whole picture of the former Vietnamese society? They were just poor peasants whom a flood, a drought spell, an ailment, an accident or an act of appropriation on the part of a landlord or a notable had robbed of all means of living. Then they were compelled to leave their villages and lead a vagrant life on the road. Neither national industry nor commerce were developed enough to absorb them and they ended up by wandering on street pavements, about railway stations, market places and lived on public charity.

Today, nobody can dispossess the co-operatives of their lands. Floods, droughts, typhoons and American bombings may inflict grave losses on the crops and mutilate or kill people. The rice ration, under such circumstances, may well go down, but no peasant, yes absolutely no peasant, is deprived of his means of living and none is forced to leave the village and wander on the road and hold out their hands for alms. The permanent insecurity which threatened the peasants in the past, even in a quarter-century. That is, without any doubt, the most valuable gain of twenty-five years' struggle and construction.

And what about the women already freed from a double yoke, on the social plane as well as in their daily life? There needs only to see these millions of young peasant girls with a proud gait, speaking with ease during meetings, merrily joking among themselves or with their elders to see that the condition of the Vietnamese woman is a far cry from what it used to be.

This human condition of millions of peasants has undergone a complete change in a quarter-century. That is, without any doubt, the most valuable gain of twenty-five years' struggle and construction.

Today, the North Vietnamese peasant can look toward his future with confidence, for today he has a future. And he can shape, with full consciousness, his own future and the future of his children. Nothing can better characterize the new state of mind than the planting of these trees along the lanes in all villages and on many hills formerly completely bare.

The poor peasant never thought of growing trees which would be rewarding only after many years. They could hardly look beyond six months at most. Planting a tree, that was a bet on the future.

Because they can think of the future, the terms "politics," "science" and "culture" now make sense for the peasants. The crops and stock-raising are to give ever higher yields: the children must be better off than their parents. The village must have to school and to have it built the peasants will not spare anything. There has appeared in the family budget an item still small indeed but it is there — of cultural expenditures: purchase of school things for the children, money for a trip to the town and from time to time for a movie ticket. Most villages have their own song and dance ensembles and sometimes sport teams. Millions of illers have gradually emerged from their subsistence economy and an essentially vegetative (or rather animal) life into a really human one.

That new life can also be seen in the growing number of mosquito-nets, bikes, vacuum flasks, books, newspapers and radio-sets; it also finds a vivid expression in the daily conversation of the people. Political, economic and literary terms which were completely unfamiliar to the overwhelming majority of peasants forty-five years or so ago.

And what about the women already freed from a double yoke, on the social plane as well as in their daily life? There needs only to see these millions of young peasant girls with a proud gait, speaking with ease during meetings, merrily joking among themselves or with their elders to see that the condition of the Vietnamese woman is a far cry from what it used to be.

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TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the working of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

Cambodia's Diplomatic Success at the Conference

THE Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea in the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia on September 9 issued a communiqué bringing out the fresh political and diplomatic victory of the Front and National Union Government at the Lusaka Conference.

The communiqué referred to the vote on the Cambodian question at the Summit of Non-Aligned Countries on September 6 and 7, 1970. In the voting, the communiqué recalled, 21 countries voted

for the participation of the delegation of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia in the gathering, 7 countries voted against and 12 others were in favour of leaving the seat of Cambodia vacant.

The communiqué pointed out that the vote was a condemnation of the coup d'état carried out by the Lon Nol-Sieng Matak clique in the pay of US imperialism, and at the same time, an affirmation of the Conference's solidarity with the Khmer people fighting against the aggression by the United

States, Saigon and Thailand. It emphatically showed the utter isolation and total failure of the Lon Nol-Sieng Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh traitorous clique and its master, US imperialism, the communist

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A PUPPET OFFICER'S DIARY FOUND AT THE FOOT OF A RUBBER TREE IN CAMBODIA

At the end of June 1961, the Cambodian National Liberation Front Forces (UNLF) reached to Kompong Cham area. The Saigon troops sent to Cambodia to rescue the Lon Nol-Matak clique from an imminent collapse. On June 20, the UNLF found in the cut Chap rubber plantation among the enemy's material and corpses, many letters to be sent home as well as diaries of officers and soldiers of the Saigon army. These writings give an idea of the fate of mind of the men who were victims of Nixon's and his lackey's hellfire policy.

The men in Washington from Melos, laid to the "congressmen" sent to South Viet Nam and Cambodia on fact-finding missions, have carefully been speaking highly of the Saigon troops' metamorphosis by "Vietnamization." Some of them even complained that these troops did not fight in South Viet Nam with the same zeal as in Cambodia.

The blood-stained uniformed diary found at the foot of one of the millions of rubber trees planted in straight rows in the south of Cambodia, is not a particular case. It has had the most of being written by an officer of "Rangers," considered by the Saigon and US commands a picked army unit. Lieutenant Le Thanh Phong, of the 33rd Ranger Battalion, 318th Battalion Group. Following are excerpts of the journal first released by Khmer Information Agency (KIA).

June 7: Received orders to return to the company CP and to go to the banks of the Luong Quyen canal where only Viet Cong are to be found. A pelting rain. What a dog's life! I'm more and more fed up...

June 9: Unexpected orders to interrupt the operation now underway and to fall back. Stir in the battalion: are we to be sent to Cambodia? or to another front?

Returned to Khai Vinh (Pou Lam) (1). Assembly then assembly again decided by the Battalion Group command. What a confusion! And what a foul language too!

The men of the 18th and 33rd Battalions, of the 51st

"Rangers," have taken refuge in a block of buildings fenced in with barbed-wire entanglements, whose only exit is guarded by MPs and security agents.

Those of the 30th Battalion have just been back from Cambodia, with only one company surviving. They are chatting: "A lot of money and valuable things there! Alcohol and girls galore!" But there, any engagement will become a big battle. The terrain is not bare: plenty of shrubs. We virtually touch the muscles of the guns of the enemy before knowing where they are. There they have big arm and ammunition depots and their fire power is terrific. On the friendly side, artillery and aircraft support is inadequate...

Heard them speak of six things to be learnt by heart: No 1 "Double pay in Cambodia"... No 6 "Aim straight and hit home if encountering Viet Congs."

The June salary will be paid upon return. All right it goes to hell. Everything will go to hell if one is dead. In the evening, some went to see the American film *Striking Distance of Fire* (2), others go to the theatre to an "exciting" choreographic performance, others went on a spree till 1 o'clock in the morning as the departure was set for 3 o'clock.

June 10: GMC trucks carried us to Phan Thang Gian bridge (3) then moved in the direction of Binh Duong (4) and joined the 18th Armoured Unit at Ben Cat; they then headed for Cu Chi, drove along National Highway No 1, passed through Trang Hung and Lo Do and crossed the frontier of Cambodia.

The whole day huddled in the lorries, we had not even time to get off and stretch our legs. On the road we are dehydrated and our insides kept tormenting us. The rain made everything look darker. Guns thundered in the distance, before us. Luminous trails of bullets streaked the night air. What a gloom! What immense vacuum!

June 11: Midnight. We got out of the cars and immediately

huddled down to digging holes to face eventual artillery shelling. Afterwards, fortunate enough to be able to hang my hammock, I stretched myself in it with my dirty clothes on. The hoarse screams of my types in their nightmare prevented me from sleeping. At dawn, we again had dehydrated rice and waited for fresh marching orders. We were in such tenterhooks! Dead bird! Dead tired!

June 21: Planned down for ten days at the dismal Memot (5). Our men vied with one another in looting the lamlets nearby. But not much to bag. The rubber trees were as gloomy rows of casuarina trees in cemeteries. Impossible to sleep because of the mosquitoes. Yet, nine changes out of ten you would get killed; when shall we be able to come home? It poured down all through the night. It pierced my heart already rent by the chirpings of cricket:

In rain-soaked Kompong Cham (6) rocked by roars of thunder

Swarms of hungry mosquitoes are out for blood. With these mosquitoes, one will for sure leave one's skin here! How unhealthy these rubber plantations!

After swigging one and a half litres of alcohol, the sub-lieutenant burst into hysterical laughter. In the day-time we patrolled the hamlets. At night, we mounted guard in outposts. Just been issued bullet-proof jackets and gas-masks. An extra load to carry. What is the use of all that? Where shall we go next? Already ten wearisome days, ten sleepless nights! How many trips we have had to make! How many fox-holes we have to dig each night. Oaths are ready to be rapped out. A soldier's life, what an accursed life! This is not our native land! Tomorrow we shall have to make a four-day rally, nobody knows what is in store for us!

June 26: What a nightmare? Besieged Prey Veng (7) has called for help. Kompong Cham and Tonle Bet (8) are expected to fall. The battalion

group does not budge. No badge for ten days. On the 11th day we set out at last.

As soon as they reached Peam Cheang (9), the 18th and 5th Armoured Units which brought up the rear, were intercepted. Seven hundred men and forty vehicles have gone to hell. The head of the column had to fall back to rescue its rear.

June 28: A new encounter at Chap plantation, 4 kilometers from Peam Cheang. We got bogged down in the thick jungle of rubber trees; another five hundred men and thirty vehicles gone! Like a fish in a net! The brigade commander gave orders to split in three columns to withdraw to Prey Veng.

The first column was disbanded at Svai Tiep; everyone took to his heels without having time to look at the trees on both sides of the road. The enemy were close behind, carrying mortars on bicycles.

The second column arrived at Svai Antor when it learned of the debacle of the friendly unit but refused to go to rescue it on the ground that the "terrain was too muddy."

The men of the 33rd Battalion, the third column, accompanied by a score of newsmen and cameramen, intercepted at Pongpang, would bear the brunt of "enemy's attack the whole day." In fact gunshots of a dozen snipers were heard, but the men claimed they had to "deal with a whole Viet Cong regiment," that had they not beaten in retreat "all the column would have been wiped out."

June 27: 7.30. A fierce clash with the enemy. We were hurled back into open fields and had to call in aircraft and artillery cover. At 1 p.m. the orders to move into Pongpang village were not yet given. At 2 p.m. the 33rd Rangers were commanded to seize Pongpang. In the village they only found bodies of women and children, killed by bombs and shells. Suddenly gun reports were heard: the enemy fired on us from where we didn't know. The 2nd Platoon received a hard blow. The 1st Platoon skirted the village and was compelled to open up to recover the wounded. All the men in the platoon were lying low in the beds of the canal. An uninterdicted exchange of fire. Lieutenant Lieu, with a leg cut, groaned pitifully in front of the 1st Platoon but impossible to evacuate him because of heavy enemy fire...

4 p.m. We received orders to withdraw to enable our guns to bombard the enemy. For dinner we given

chicken but had the impression to eat rotten wood as the corpses of our men littered the ground all around. In the evening, I went to outposts. A blue funk! In the night, the enemy drew near us. They came and went like ghosts. We couldn't sleep a wink.

June 28: Oaths were let out in profusion. Couldn't finish a meal, three times interrupted. Lying on the look-out, behind darkened wrecks of armoured cars. A thunderous blast! The radio announced: "A man has been blown up by a mine." The boys of the 18th Unit were in a nasty fix in the direction of Peam Cheang.

They got bogged down and could hardly move. The 33rd Battalion received orders to go to its rescue.

I felt terribly homesick. Many fellows came and asked me for the way to South Viet Nam, 250 kilometers to go before arriving at Go Dau (10). I shall not be able to go home again, no mistake. How frightful! How dismal! Rubber trees, rubber trees everywhere!

HERE ended Lieutenant Le Thanh Phong's diary.

A last word on the fate of the 318th Battalion Group: All the three columns were badly mauled and took heavy casualties. The 33rd Battalion received orders to fall back to Peam Cheang where the 18th Battalion came encircled and given to lay. But intercepted in its turn at Chap plantation, the former was depleted of half of its strength. Leaving their dead and wounded and vehicles on the field, the "Rangers" ran helter-skelter to Pongpang. The following day, the survivors of the Battalion rallied at Fontaria but on the night of June 30, they had to disperse because of a heavy shelling. There was then a stampede to Memot and a few days later all the remnants of the 318th Battalion Group withdrew to South Viet Nam.

(1) A suburb of Saigon; (2) Retranslated from the Vietnamese; (3) Main bridge crossing the Saigon River near Saigon; (4) A province north of Saigon; (5) Big rubber plantation, 138 km east-northeast of Phnom Penh; (6) A provincial capital, 75 km northeast of Phnom Penh; (7) A provincial capital, 45 km east of Phnom Penh; (8) Townlet on the Mekong River opposite Kompong Cham; (9) Rubber plantation, 15 km south of Kompong Cham; (10) A townlet in South Viet Nam, 57 km northwest of Saigon.

NIXON was formerly known as a "hardliner," a "fire-eater" who set his face against the national liberation movement, the socialist camp and peace, democracy and social progress in the US and in the world. However in the recent past he has done his best to justify his attitude, pleading that: "The three pillars of the Quakers are peace, civil rights and tolerance. That's why, as a Quaker, I can't be an extremist, a racist or an uncompromising hawk" (US News and World Report, July 15, 1968). To the American people he declared: "I know that the Democrats say I have changed since 1951" (Chicago, Illinois, March 20, 1958). In the 1968 presidential elections he said: "If this administration (of J.B. Johnson) is unable to end this war, then elect a new administration and we'll end it and avoid future Viet Nams" (Newsweek, March 11, 1968), and he promised to end the war within six months (Key Biscayne, October 13, 1968). This prompted many people to speak of "a new Nixon." What is this Nixon like?

In one of its July 1968 issues US News and World Report presented Richard Nixon, "Republican" nominee, as a senator of California who from 1947 to 1952 had supported NATO, the European Rehabilitation Program, technical assistance to under-developed areas... In domestic affairs, he stood against subsidies for the construction of public housing and drafted himself the Taft-Hartley Labour Law in 1947 and got it through despite President Truman's opposition. As a member of the Un-American Activities Commission, he gathered evidence against Alger Hiss, an official of the Department of State eventually indicted as a "renegade" for intelligence with the Soviet Union, and won the admiration and affection of Joseph M.Carthy.

After World War II, when the Soviet Union had not yet rehabilitated its economy, the situation of the East European people's democracies was not yet stable and the US was still holding the monopoly of the atomic bomb, the American rulers nurtured the ambition of attacking the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. In Asia they occupied Japan and South Korea and turned them into military bases, eventual springboards of aggression against the Chinese People's Republic. They set up many military bases around the Soviet Union and the socialist camp, scotch the national liberation movement in the world, unleashed the "cold war" to pave the way for a shooting war with the Soviet Union under the pretext of fighting communism. At the same time Nixon staunchly supported and recognized later on that "I have fought communists all my political life and I am proud to say they've fought me all my political life, too." (Nationwide TV speech, March 13, 1954), and declared, "While we are spending billions to oppose communists abroad, it is imperative that we also have an effective anti-communist program at home" (San Francisco Examiner, November 1, 1962).

Vice President during the Eisenhower administration, Nixon, together with Eisenhower and Dulles, pursued from 1953 to 1960, a policy of war-making and repression, of trying to browbeat the American people into an anti-communist crusade within and without the US. They staged a series of anti-revolutionary coups d'etat in Latin America against progressive governments and pitched-fodder into power reactionary elements among the officers trained in American schools. The most typical of these ploys was engineered in Guatemala in 1954. When the Cuban revolution was successful, Nixon angrily said, "This Communist Cuban regime had become an 'intolerable cancer'.

The time is now at hand when patience is no longer a virtue." (October 18, 1960). And he urged on the CIA to intervene there forthwith by force of arms. Even later, he did not want to learn a lesson from the failure of this policy and hoped to nip the Cuban revolution

NIXON: the Man and His Policy

I. Nixon the Die - Hard

B. T. HUNG

in the bud. In a speech delivered in New York in March 1964, he said: "The United States must make a decision that Castro must go, and then do what is necessary to bring him down."

In 1953, owing to CIA interference in Iran, Mossadegh's progressive government was overthrown. In 1956, Nixon supported the Franco-British aggression against Egypt in the Suez Canal area and, together with the Guy Mollet and Eden governments, took decision to President Eisenhower's desire to end the Franco-British adventure in this part of the globe. In 1957, he and Eisenhower and Dulles declared that the US was entitled to wade in any area to fill the "vacuum" and in 1958 agreed to the landing of US troops in the Lebanon. With regard to the Nasser government, they either tried to bribe it with food supplies or to topple it with espionage activities or to threaten it with aid suspension to intimidate the "revolutionary movement in the Near and Middle East. The Sixth Fleet was sent to the Mediterranean Sea.

In Southeast Asia, the US and its "allies" set up the SEATO aggressive bloc having as partners the US, Great Britain, France, Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan, and Australia, in order to keep the countries in that region in the orbit of imperialism, to cope with the national liberation movement there and to contain the Chinese People's Republic. The incidents caused by the Seventh Fleet in the Taiwan Straits heightened the tension in Asia. Nixon was most incensed at the triumph of the Chinese revolution;

he said, "The Acheson policy was directly responsible for the loss of China" (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 26, 1954) and laid the blame on the Chinese people, saying: "China is won to the communist side by the Chinese..." (Lake George, New York, July 12, 1954). He used the expression "the loss of China" as if China were a US possession. He obstinately refused to recognize the Chinese People's Republic, and said: "The State Department should announce to the world immediately and without qualification that this country (USA) will not recognize Red China" (San Francisco, California, November 5, 1950).

WITH regard to the armament race, Nixon advocated a "counter-force policy": "Our deterrent force must be invulnerable to destruction, and it must have the power to destroy the war-making ability from an enemy" (The New

prevent the revolutionary and anti-US movement from surging up everywhere. Nixon himself as US Vice-President touring Latin America in 1958 was pelted with rotten tomatoes and added eggs, a "reception" never given to any other guest vice president.

WITH regard to Viet Nam and Indochina, Nixon always favoured a military victory. He staunchly supported the Navarre Plan (May 1953), the "Vulture" program (1954) when the French troops were beleaguered at Dien Bien Phu, and the scheme to fill the vacuum left by France after the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Indochina. At the end of 1953, before France had been compelled to end the war, Nixon said to the French officers and the quilters "The question of negotiation would never come up" (Nov. 3, 1953). In April 1954, when the French debacle was around the corner, he said: "Should France give up the fight and the necessity arise, the US government would land troops in Indochina, whatever may be public opinion in the States" (April 16, 1954 at the convention of American Editors). To end the predicament of the French expeditionary forces, he and some other "hawks" envisaged the sending of US air and sea craft to Viet Nam since 1954, but the plan fizzled out.

In 1965, when President Johnson decided to commit GIs en masse to South Viet Nam and to bombard the North, Nixon prodded him: "If [President Johnson] makes the right command decision - to end the war by winning it, he could well go down in history as one of our greatest Presidents" (New York, January 26, 1965). In his Saigon trip in July 1966, he remarked: "There is no reasonable possibility of a negotiated settlement. Further discussion of a negotiated settlement delays the end of the war by simply encouraging the enemy that we are bogging for peace... The more power we have concentrated, the sooner this war can be brought to a conclusion."

At the end of 1967, after US heavy attacks at the hands of the South Viet Nam liberation armed forces in the two dry-season counter-offensives, and in the teeth of US public clamour for the Johnson administration's ending the Viet Nam war and withdrawing all US troops from South Viet Nam, Nixon said: "I believe we should win the ground war in the South and better use our air and sea power in the North." When the American people and political circles demanded that Johnson halt the bombing of North Viet Nam, he made no bones about saying: "In my opinion the proposal to halt the bombing and talk about the proposal simply have the effect of prolonging the war by encouraging the enemy. They are led to believe there is a division in the US and they can win." (New York, March 5, 1967).

During the past twenty-three years of his political career, Nixon has always been a conservative. He has

(Continued page 7)

Step Up All-Round Moral and Material Aid to Indochinese Peoples

Statement of the Stockholm Conference
Executive Committee of Viet Nam

A session held on September 5, 1970 at Potsdam (GDR) the Executive Committee of the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam closely examined the present situation in Indochina and condemned the US obstinate prosecution and expansion of the war of aggression in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

In South Viet Nam, under its "Vietnamization" program the Nixon administration has in fact been stepping up the war, with heaps of heinous crimes against the Vietnamese people. It has also been increasingly infringing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRVN with recon flights and heavy bombardments of some populated areas.

In Laos, it has been escalating its "special war" with massive bombings of the liberated zone and unleashing new contingents of US troops. That mercenaries, Saigon puppet troops - against the Lao patriotic forces.

The aggression of Cambodia by US and Saigon troops has spread the war to the whole of Indochina and worsened the situation. On US orders, the Saigon invasion army is remaining in Cambodia. The US authorities have been urging Thailand to send troops to Cambodia. The Nixon administration has been carrying out B-52 bombardment deeper on Cambodia territory and supplying the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak - Son Ngoc Thanh regime with big quantities of arms and munitions. It has had the check to declare that the bombings by US aircraft in Cambodia will not be limited in time and space and that US troops will be sent to Cambodia again if need be.

It is obvious that, despite its setbacks, the US has not given up its neo-

colonialist aims and continued denying the national rights of the Indochinese peoples and seriously threatening the peace and security of the world.

In consequence, the organizations attending the meeting raised their voices together with millions of people in the world to reaffirm their support to the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia in their fight for national rights and freedom and peace.

The Executive Committee hails the decision to convene in Stockholm in October next the first session of the International Commission for Investigation of US War Crimes in Viet Nam.

The Executive Committee decided to invite international and national organizations and personalities to join the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam and to sponsor and support the conference on Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia scheduled for November 28 - 30, 1970 in Stockholm.

The Executive Committee calls on international and national organizations and personalities and peoples in the world to:

- Denounce the manoeuvres of the Nixon administration, urge it to end its aggressive war and withdraw totally, rapidly and unconditionally US and allied troops from South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia;

- Unreservedly support the Vietnamese people's struggle and the joint-point overall solution of the RVN and PRG of the RSVN;

- Wholeheartedly back the Lao people's effort and 5-point overall solution of March 6, 1970 of the Lao Patriotic Front and demand immediate

(Continued page 7)

News from LAOS

WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS OF THE KHANG KHAY MEETING?

As reported on the August 24, 1970 issue of *Viet Nam Courier*, Prince Souphanouvong had agreed to Prince Souvanna Phouma's proposal dated June 25 for a meeting at Khang Khay between representatives of the two princes with a view to paving the way for the settlement of the Lao problem by the parties concerned. Tiao Souk Vongkai, Prince Souphanouvong's special envoy, arrived in Vientiane on July 31 to discuss with Prince Souvanna Phouma some practical matters related to the preparations for the Khang Khay talks.

Prince Souphanouvong appointed on August 20 General Phoume Sipasut his plenipotentiary to Khang Khay.

The prospects for the Khang Khay meeting to which everybody is looking forward, seemed bright.

And yet, during his talks with Tiao Souk Vongkai in Vientiane, Prince Souvanna Phouma unexpectedly put forward new proposals. In the first place he wanted to change the location of the projected negotiations. He then nominated a "government delegation" to negotiate with the Lao Patriotic Front regarded as a "political party." He thus wanted to bypass the intermediary stage, namely the meeting between the representatives of the two princes.

After that in his message dated August 29 to Prince Souphanouvong, he notified that during his visit to the USA he would like Tiao Souk Vongkai to keep in touch with Pheng Phongsavan, his plenipotentiary to solve the questions which would be dealt with in the "meeting between the Royal Government and the Lao Patriotic Front."

Then he suggested that Prince Souphanouvong meet with him in Paris.

Such moves are not consistent with the previous agreement reached by the two princes and are likely to adversely affect the Khang

Khay meeting and the ensuing one. To make clear the stance of the Lao Patriotic Front, General Phoume Sipasut, Prince Souphanouvong's plenipotentiary to the Khang Khay meeting, has made the following statement to the *Pathet Lao* radio:

"As known, since the tripartite National Union Government in Laos was overthrown by the Americans through a military coup on April 19, 1964, the situation in Laos has become extremely complicated: the new government led by Prince Souvanna Phouma has called in US air force to attack Laos and recently has brought in Thai mercenaries and South Vietnamese puppet troops together with US air force and US-commanded 'special forces' to intensify their attacks throughout Laos.

"A government which has served the US aggressive war has no right and no capacity to appoint authentic representatives to discuss the settlement of the Lao problem, as it is likely to be wrenched by the Americans.

"Moreover, owing to US aggression the war has been extended and the situation in Laos has become extremely complicated, therefore a meeting between the representatives of the two princes to prepare for the necessary conditions is a must to settle the Lao problem. That is why the renunciation of this meeting will not gain time but instead will land the search for a settlement in a deadlock.

"On the other hand, it is clear that Prince Souvanna Phouma wants to negotiate from an advantageous position, that of a government delegation versus a 'political party.' But the fact is that, under the historical conditions described above, Prince Souvanna Phouma is only the representative of a party (that of the rulers of Vientiane) whereas the opposition comprises two political forces

with legal status, namely the Lao Patriotic Front and the Patriotic Front. Forces united in an Alliance set up since the 1960 Vietnamese coup against the pro-American government. That is an historical fact which the Prince Souvanna Phouma side cannot deny.

"As for the proposal of Prince Souvanna Phouma's side for a meeting between the two Princes in Paris, it does not show any good will and desire for a prompt settlement, but is aimed at cancelling its effect by the means of putting off the meeting between the representatives of the two Princes, the necessity of which has been stated above."

Commenting the volte-face of Prince Souvanna Phouma, General Phoume Sipasut pointed out that this showed that Prince Souvanna Phouma was under the pressure of the Americans and their extremist stooges.

General Phoume Sipasut then dealt with the prospects of the preparations for the meeting between the representatives of the two Princes:

"These prospects depend for a great part on Prince Souvanna Phouma's side," he said, "If it strives hard to stand the pressure of the Americans and their stooges, and keep to its own proposals, then the meeting between the representatives of the two Princes will take place, the negotiations will be conducted in a way conform to the interests of the people and the legitimate aspirations of the Lao people. Pursuant to its just position and good will, the Lao Patriotic Front is determined to persevere in its endeavours to settle the Lao problem between the Lao parties concerned, in accordance with the 1962 Geneva Agreement and the present situation in Laos, without foreign interference."

The statement then expressed the deep gratitude of the RGVN for the Soviet people organizations and representatives' support to, and sympathy with, the Khmer people's struggle.

A New Phnom Penh Malicious Fabrication

THE Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia has issued a statement dismissing a new vicious libel by the Phnom Penh puppet administration asserting that Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk had "violently attacked the Soviet Union" in one of his speeches.

The statement dated September 10, 1970 said:

"The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia flatly and categorically rejects the anti-Soviet 'speech' attributed to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, as a sheer fabrication of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak - Son Ngoc Thanh clique and the CIA, aimed at

dividing the anti-imperialist forces and diverting public attention from the humiliating setbacks sustained by the lackeys of the US imperialists in Phnom Penh.

"The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia declares that it strongly renews and condemns, in advance, all other future manoeuvres of the same kind of the CIA of the US imperialists."

The statement then expressed the deep gratitude of the RGVN for the Soviet people organizations and representatives' support to, and sympathy with, the Khmer people's struggle.

RSVN PRG NEW PEACE INITIATIVE

(Continued from page 1)

The general elections must be held in a really free and democratic way. The modalities of the elections must guarantee genuine freedom and equality during the electoral campaigns and vote proceedings to all citizens, irrespective of their political tendencies, including those who are living abroad. No party shall usurp for itself the right to organize general elections and lay down their modalities. The general elections organized by the puppet administration of the US in Saigon at the bayonets of the US occupying troops cannot be free and democratic.

A provisional government of broad coalition is indispensable for the organization of free and democratic general elections and also for ensuring the right to self-determination of the South Viet Nam people during the transitory period between the restoration of peace and the holding of general elections.

5. The provisional coalition government will include three components:

- persons of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam;

- persons of the Saigon administration, really standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy;

- persons of various political and religious forces and tendencies standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy including those who, for political reasons, have to live abroad.

The provisional coalition

government will implement the agreements reached by the parties.

The provisional coalition government will carry out a policy of national concord, ensure the democratic freedom of the people, prohibit all acts of terror, reprisal, and discrimination against those who have collaborated with either side, stabilize and improve the living conditions of the people and organize general elections to form a coalition government.

The provisional coalition government will pursue a foreign policy of peace and neutrality, practise a policy of good neighbourhood with the Kingdom of Laos and the Kingdom of Cambodia, respect the sovereignty, independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of these two countries. It will establish diplomatic relations with all countries regardless of their political regime, including the United States, in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

6. Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese people is one. The reunification of Viet Nam will be achieved step by step, by peaceful means, on the basis of discussions and agreements between the two zones, without coercion or annexation from either side, without foreign interference. The time for reunification as well as all questions relating to the reunification will be discussed and agreed upon by both zones. Pending the peaceful reunification of the country, the two zones will re-establish normal relations in all fields on the basis of equality and mutual

respect, and will respect each other's political regime, internal and external policies.

7. The parties will decide together measures aimed at ensuring the respect and the correct implementation of the provisions agreed upon.

8. After the agreement on signing of the agreement aimed at putting an end to the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam, the parties will implement the modalities that will have been laid down for a cease-fire in South Viet Nam.

To attain a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam declares its readiness to get henceforth in touch with the forces of persons of various political tendencies and religions in the country and abroad, including members of the present Saigon administration, except Thieu, Ky, and Khieu.

MINISTER Nham Thuy, head of the delegation of the DRVN government, declared that his delegation "fully approves and supports the statement by the delegation of the PRG of the RSVN because it is thoroughly in keeping with the joint-point overall solution that the DRVN government has unreversibly approved and supported."

He said that the above-aided peace initiative of the RSVN PRG is the way helping the United States to get honorably out of the longest, costliest and most unpopular war in American history.

SOUTH VIET NAM TOWNSFOLK'S MOUNTING DISCONTENT

SAIGON has been all in a commotion because of three happenings: brutalities against students and pupils, dismantling of war invalids and ex-servicemen's houses, and siege of the Ngo Quyen hospital in Nha Trang where disabled servicemen were being treated.

After the crackdown on students and pupils on August 30, 1970 Thieu-Ky-Khieu were strongly taken to task. As a result of the protest of the South Viet Nam people, 114 students were released, except three leaders including Huynh Tan Mam, President of the Saigon Students' General Association and President of the Provisional Committee of South Viet Nam Students' Representatives. In jail, the three arrested youths staged an indefinite hunger-strike from September 7. Outside, their mates held teach-ins and demonstrations against the Saigon authorities, who went on with the repression. But the siege of the Saigon Students' General Association and raid by field police on the Minh Mang school quarter at Cholon on Sept. 13 only poured oil on the flame. On Sept. 14, all the medical students decided to call a 24-hour hunger-strike and to suspend for three days their training at the hospitals.

Against the war invalids and ex-servicemen, police violence also continued unabated. The ransacking of their houses was carried on in Saigon and other towns. As a protest against that ill-treatment, on Sept. 13, 150 war invalids began a 48-hour hunger-strike near the Minh Mang school quarter.

Commenting on the Thieu-Ky-Khieu kept-up police actions, the Saigon paper *Lap Thuong* (Position) wrote on Sept. 12: "Terror and repression cannot win popular confidence for the regime nor dishearten the masses' militancy against it."

Step Up All-Round...

(Continued from page 6)

cessation of the bombing of the whole territory so that the Lao parties concerned may begin talks and settle their internal affairs;

- Staunchly prop the Cambodian people's fight led by the National United Front of Kampuchea headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the National United Royal Government of Cambodia, the only legitimate and legal government of the

Cambodian people, and the 5 points of March 23, 1970 of Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk;

- Step up all forms of moral and material assistance to the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia;

- Back by various forms of action the autumn campaign of the American people against the US government's aggressive policy.

Next issue:

II. THE DISUNITED STATES

NIXON...

(Continued from page 5)

admitted himself: "My position is conservative in the best sense - conservative for progress (!) (Hot Springs, Virginia, May 13, 1969). He has never heeded any advice (Pierre Salinger - *With Kennedy*) and has never acknowledged his responsibility for any setback. He has always passed the buck on to others. In the two elections in 1960 and 1962, the majority were against him because of his bellicosity but he shifted the blame on the conservative elements who split the ranks. He ascribed

to Johnson and his Democratic Party US heavy failures in South Viet Nam, but kept mum about the fact that in the fifties he and Eisenhower had been the first American authorities to try to oust the French from Viet Nam and favour US armed intervention in South Viet Nam, which produced a tension in Indochina.

NIXON'S admittance to the White House has virtually operated no change in him. Commenting on his speech of April 30, 1970, *Le Monde* wrote:

"It is worth noting that the President has put forth no national or juridical argument... The quibbles of the

former regime, the lessons of international ethics given by Mr Dean Rusk belong 'to another epoch, that of diplomatic representations' held by Mr Nixon in utter derision and disdain. Washington enforces the first law vis-a-vis the neighbour of its allies (Cambodia-Ed.) on the strength of no authority nor pretext."

The exponent of "Vietnamization" remains what he has always been, i.e. a die-hard "hawk" who dreams of lording it over the world by force of arms.

PLAF SHATTERING SUCCESS at Tra Bong on Sept. 7

- Military Sub-Sector CP, and "Special Forces" Camp Wiped Out.
- A Battalion, a Company and 7 Platoons Put out of Action.
- 600 GI and Puppet Casualties.

ON the night of Sept. 7 the PLAF made a violent attack on all 13 targets of enemy system of points d'appui at Tra Bong, a district capital in Quang Ngai province, 95 km south-southeast of Da Nang and 25 km south-southwest of Chu Lai.

After three minutes' fighting, the patriotic forces controlled the administrative quarter of the district town and wiped out a company of regional troops, 4 commando platoons and a posse of policemen. The casualties included the major, head of the district, the captain, deputy head and members of the district and village administrative councils. Farther southeast, after five minutes' fighting, the PLAF overran the "special forces" camp. A whole battalion including its command and 4 companies was put out of action. The PLAF then stormed a post defending the airstrip and knocked out a platoon of regional troops.

The Yankees' quarter where were stationed an artillery company and a sappers'

platoon as well as "advisors" from Division Americal and many other targets also suffered heavy losses.

In total, on the night of Sept. 7 the military subsector CP and "special forces" camp were erased. The enemy took 600 casualties. The PLAF put out of action a company and 7 platoons of enemy troops, 18 military vehicles, a 105 mm gun and enemy military installations and seized a big quantity of war materials including machine-guns and mortars. Many strategic hamlets were dismantled by their inmates.

THIS dramatic gain of the PLAF assumes a great significance. Tra Bong is a position defending the hilly area commanding the narrow strip along the seacoast where are located such big bases as Chu Lai and Quang Ngai. Important defenses were set up by the enemy such as blockhouses, casemates, trenches and barbed wire entanglements, artillery positions and armored car compound. Near Da Nang is Chu Lai air base, the biggest in Southeast Asia;

its runway, similar to that on an aircraft carrier, is built on the seashore. Together with the artillery positions installed in the plain, it provides a heavy fire cover to enemy operations. The destruction of such a system of points d'appui clearly spells out that the PLAF do not lack the means nor the determination to deal the hardest blows at the enemy at the time and in the locality of their own choice. Their blows were so devastating that in a quarter of an hour, they wiped out 600 well-armed and well-protected enemy troops.

Besides, at Tra Bong, like in any other locality in the South, propped up by US artillery and aircraft, the puppet troops are being deployed into outer perimeters under Nixon's "Vietnamization" plan. This setback gives the lie to the optimistic appraisals of the prospects of "Vietnamization." It also helps thwart the "special pacification" program which is the keystone of "Vietnamization."

PEOPLE of all walks of life in South Viet Nam, from the farmers to broad sections of the bourgeoisie are hostile to the US aggressors for whom a day walk in Saigon streets may turn out a dangerous venture, as the US Embassy has just warned the American residents. Washington sets the Thieu-Ky-Khiem pack on the demonstrators, chiefly the students, who have been carrying out since March last vigorous actions for the withdrawal of US troops, overthrow of the quislings, re-establishment of peace, and democratic liberties. The harsh crackdown on the

"Many thundering explosions were heard, the stifling smoke blinding everything. From three directions (Cuong Do, Hong Thap Tu and Thong Nhat streets) policemen overran the fence and broke into the college. They pursued the students up to the conference hall. Many students were hit by rockets."

Trang Dan (Black and White), August 31.

"Two choppers circled overhead and supplied support to the police with rockets and tear grenades."

Tin Song (Morning News), September 1.

Police Repression of Saigonese Students

"The Most Brutal Repression in the History of Students' Struggle," Say Saigon Papers.

peaceful demonstration of one thousand students from Saigon, Can Tho, Dat Lat and Hue who met in Saigon on August 30 is one of the crimes typical of the Saigon regime so much lauded by Spiro Agnew in the name of Nixon.

Below are excerpts of Saigon paper articles.

"The policemen arrived to the tenth ward, besides their usual bludgeons, bamboo stunks and rattan shields. They broke into the school (the Agricultural College where the demonstrators were holding a meeting - Ed.) after lobbing into it about 200 tear grenades and rockets. With their bludgeons and sticks they drove the students to the dormitories of the college where cruelties were visited upon them by the police. Suffocated by tear gas, the students gave way. Many of them had their heads broken by bludgeons; others were seriously wounded. Only a few of them managed to escape by jumping onto the roof of an outbuilding. A dozen students hit by rockets lost consciousness and fell from the roof.

"The newsmen covering the demonstration witnessed the most brutal repression ever in the history of political actions in Viet Nam. Though covered with bleeding wounds, the students continued to be bludgeoned or hooked with hornbladed shoes. After being roughly manhandled, they were pitilessly thrown into police vans."

Doc Lap (Independence), August 31 and September 1.

"About 200 rockets and tear grenades were used in that operation directly commanded by Mr. Trang Si Tan (Saigon Superintendent of Police - Ed.). Despite their stiff resistance, the students were driven back to the National Agricultural Centre by frenzied policemen. Many students collapsed. Others hit by rockets fell from the roof to the ground. All the newspapers correspondents, covering the students' congress, were also manhandled by the police even after showing their credentials.

"...At the police station of the first town quarter, the students arrested did not receive any food and were packed to capacity in warcells. At night, they had to sleep standing. Huynh Tan Nam, President of the General Association of Saigon and South Viet Nam Students (Ed.), was kicked in the abdomen and lost consciousness all through Sunday. This did not prevent him from being submitted on Monday to an unintermittent questioning. Le Van Nui was put to the rack throughout the night of Sunday and as a result was unable to walk. Visits by members of the families of the students arrested and by members of parliament were forbidden by the police. However, the detainees were in high spirits, singing and claiming for their release all the day and all the night."

Tia Song (Sparks), Sept. 1.

OTHER MILITARY OPERATIONS

TRUNG BO:

At Coc Bai (O'Reilly base), one company of 2nd Battalion of First Regiment put out of action, taking 300 casualties (Sept. 6-10).

On Vo Doc - Gia Rai road, Binh Tay province, 60 GIs killed or wounded, 12 tanks and armored cars destroyed; 3 choppers downed (Sept. 6).

At Canh Rang, Binh Dinh province, 2 companies of civil guards decimated, a number of US "advisors" and South Korean mercenaries knocked out (night of Sept. 3).

In Phu Yen province, 500 enemy troops, 43 military vehicles, 2 choppers put out of action (Aug. 28-Sept. 3).

NAM BO:

At Coi Nua, Rach Gia province, one battalion and three companies written off the musterrall (Aug. 29-Sept. 1).

At Xuan Loc (62 km east - northeast of Saigon) one US company destroyed (Aug. 31).

In Tre Vinh province, 800 enemy soldiers put out of action, "strategic hamlets" liberated, 30 others destroyed by the inhabitants (Sept. 1-10).

CHINA - BEIJING - 1970